

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 /084 W

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R 221544Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 439

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7090

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON THE ME

1. FRENCH DEPUTY MFA DIRECTOR FOR ME (ROUILLON) HAD TALKS WITH SYTENKO ON THE MIDDLE EAST LATE LAST WEEK, JUST BEFORE SYTENKO LEFT FOR VIENNA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KISSINGER-GROMYKO DISCUSSIONS. IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONSULTATIONS, THE FRENCH HAD SUBMITTED TO SYTENKO A SERIES OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR CLARIFICATION. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS HIS ANSWERS, AS CONVEYED TO US BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT MAY 22.

2. PALESTINIAN STATE. THE SOVIETS CONFIRMED THAT THEY
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FAVOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE.

3. GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE FRENCH HAD ASKED WHAT THE SOVIETS HAD MEANT BY "CAREFUL PREPARATIONS." THE SOVIET ANSWER WAS THAT THERE MUST BE A BASIS OF COMMON POSITIONS BY THE USSR AND THE ARABS. THE FRENCH WERE INTRIGUED THAT THE ANSWER CONCERNED ONLY THE SOVIET-ARAB SIDE, WITH NOTING ABOUT ISRAEL.

4. PLO AND GENEVA. SYTENKO SAID THAT THE PLO WAS READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE SO LONG AS IT WAS NOT INVITED ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242.

5. AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE. SYTENKO WAS ASKED IF THE THREE ELEMENTS RECENTLY CITED IN SOVIET STATEMENTS (I.E., AGREEMENT ABOUT LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, ABOUT GUARANTEEING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND ABOUT SECURING AND GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS OF ALL STATES OF THE ME TO AN INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE) WERE TO BE TAKEN UP SIMULTANEOUSLY OR SUCCESSIVELY AT THE CONFERENCE. SYTENKO SAID SIMULTANEOUSLY, BECAUSE EACH INTERACTS WITH THE OTHER. THE FRENCH TOOK THIS AS GOING AGAINST THE SPECULATION THAT THE SOVIET LISTING OF THESE ITEMS WAS INTENDED TO IMPLY THAT THE PALESTINIANS COULD COME INTO THE CONFERENCE AT A LATER STAGE.

6. WHAT KIND OF CONFERENCE? THE SOVIETS INSISTED THAT THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN A SHORT CEREMONIAL CONFERENCE LIKE THE LAST TIME. THIS TIME GENEVA HAD TO DEAL SERIOUSLY WITH REAL ISSUES.

7. PARTIAL MEASURES. THE SOVIETS SAID THAT PARTIAL MEASURES WERE PERMISSIBLE AS LONG AS THEY WERE WORKED OUT WITHIN THE CONFERENCE.

8. 1967 BORDERS. SYTENKO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT OPPOSE "MINOR RECTIFICATIONS" OF THE 1967 BORDERS AS LONG AS THE ARABS ACCEPTED SUCH RECTIFICATIONS.

9. GUARANTEES. THE SOVIETS SAID THEY DO NOT ENVISAGE A SPECIFIC SOVIET GUARANTEE OF ISRAEL'S BORDERS. RATHER, THEY ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER STATES IN AN OVERALL CONFIDENTIAL

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SYSTEM OF GUARANTEES, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A GUARANTEE OF ISRAEL'S BORDERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW07090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-0044
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750527/aaaaayip.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET VIEWS ON THE ME
TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR, XF, GENEVA, (SYTENKO), (ROUILLON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006